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The WEEKLY REVIEW, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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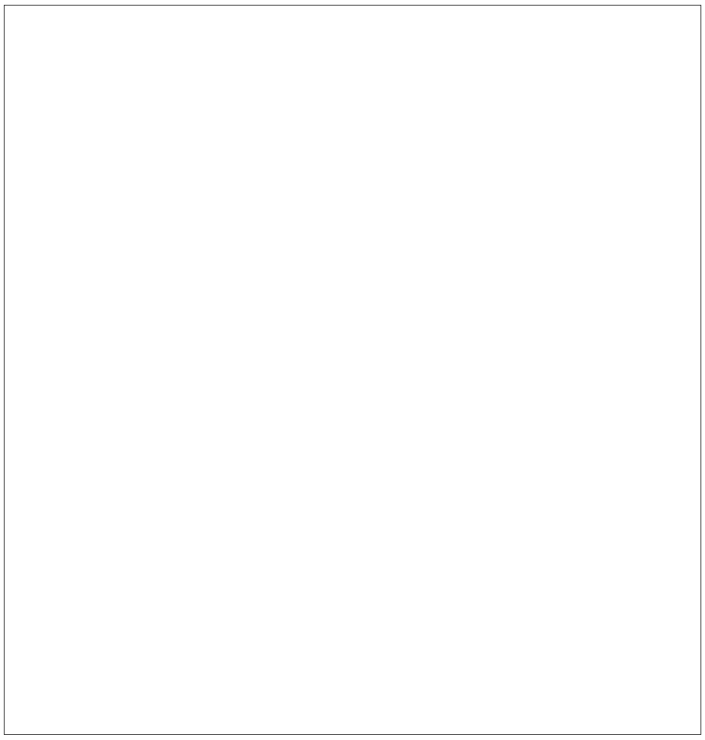

17 Argentina: Impeachment Motion

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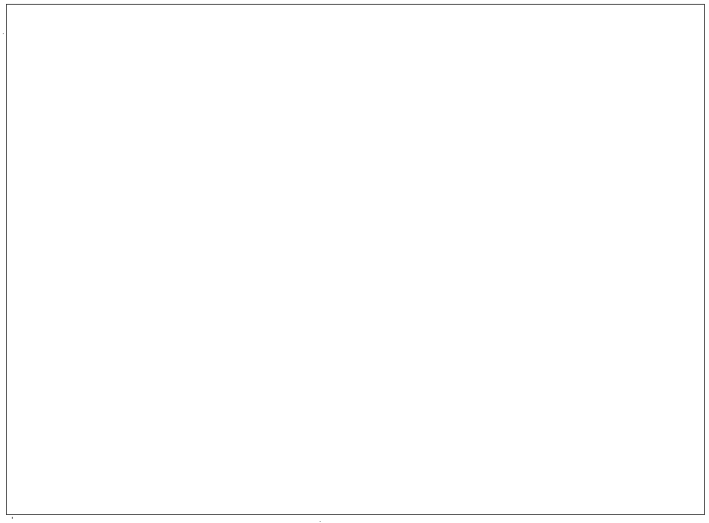

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Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly Review,

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ARGENTINA: IMPEACHMENT MOTION

An impeachment motion against President Maria Estela Peron, introduced late last week, is gaining support in congress. The motion charges gross incompetence as well as large-scale misuse of public funds.

At least three opposition political groupings have already lined up behind the motion, and the largest opposition group, the Radical Civic Union, seems to be moving in that direction. Parties allied with the Peronists in the governing coalition are said to favor impeachment also, at least unofficially.

Recent schisms within the Peronist party may provoke defections that could ensure passage of the motion. Late last week, the party formally expelled Buenos Aires Governor Victorio Calabro, a prominent unionist and spokesman for those Peronists who oppose the President. The US embassy reports that his ouster could well provide the 20 or so Peronist votes needed for passage of the measure.

Peron's recent actions have led some to speculate that she is deliberately seeking to provoke a military coup and thus achieve a kind of martyrdom. She remains isolated in her hospital room, taking counsel only from a small clique of followers of ousted Lopez Rega. During the period of her hospitalization, Peron has ignored requests from cabinet members that she meet with them to discuss government business.

Military leaders, who could at any time remove the President, hesitate to do so lest they incur widespread popular disaffection as they did two decades ago when they moved against Juan Peron. Indeed, military spokesmen have reportedly told influential civilians not to expect the armed forces to step in and provide a solution to the leadership problem. The spokesmen say they will take over only if the government completely collapses; they added that if they are forced to do so, they will not soon re[redacted]ower to civilians. 3.5(c)

President Peron following her recent resumption of the presidency

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